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Beacon Light: November 1, 1950

St. Cloud Hospital

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BEACON LIGHT

Volume 1 Number 2

ST. CLOUD HOSPITAL

November 1, 1950

THANKSGIVING

If I were a farmer, I'd thank God for snow,
For crops and for raindrops and how the winds blow.

And if I had children I'd thank Him for those,
And praise His great power in how each one grows.

If I were a child I should thank Him for fun,
For parents and home, and the power to run.

Today I will thank Him again and again
For friends who have gone and for those who remain.

For all sorrow and pain and a cross bright with tears,
I'll thank Him and love Him through nights dark with fears.

As I learn and I buy with the coin of my pain,
For Himself and His gifts I shall thank Him again.

---Sister M. Michael, O.S.B.

THE CHAPLAIN SPEAKS.....

November is a month of red letter days. The first day of November is the Feast of All Saints, a day on which the church honors all the saints in heaven. This year the feast has a special importance because on this day, November 1, the whole Catholic world will celebrate the proclamation of the dogma of the Assumption. Catholics through the ages have believed in this doctrine, but its solemn proclamation gives Mary special honor in her role as Queen of Heaven. The six o'clock High Mass on this day will be the Mass of the Assumption. There will also be a special Holy Hour of prayer observed in the Chapel in honor of Mary.

An important event every year in a Catholic parish or institution is the celebration of Forty Hours. Forty Hours is a time when everybody makes a special effort to rediscover the most precious of all possessions--the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. So for a period of three days Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration in the chapel. Friday, the 17th of November, a High Mass in honor of the Blessed Sacrament

will begin the Forty Hours at the St. Cloud Hospital. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration until evening Benediction. The second day, Mass at the side altar will be for the intention of peace. On the third day, Sunday Mass will again be in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. Sunday evening at 7:30 the solemn closing will take place. Neighboring priests will be present and there will be a procession with the Blessed Sacrament through the chapel. Forty Hours is a time of special graces. Open your heart to them.

Thanksgiving is a civil holiday and we should remember to thank God for all the gifts and blessings we have received as Americans. Have you thanked God for the favorable outcome of the Korean war? General Mac Arthur's brilliant strategy alone would never have defeated the enemy. God's help was most necessary. Then thank God for His blessings on this hospital. They have been overwhelming this past year. On Thanksgiving Day fill yourself with good food; but even more, fill your heart with "Thanks to God."

YOUR GUIDE TO SAFETY

As a

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE

(This is the first of a series of articles written to help you work safely.)

Our problem in safety is two-fold. We are concerned not only with your own safety, but with the safety of patients and visitors as well. For this reason, added care is necessary in the performance of your duties.

The hospital is making every effort to create safe conditions and desires that you help in preventing accidents by following these simple safety instructions:

1. Your own good health is important. Report any illness promptly.
2. Report all injuries--your own or that of another--to your supervisor. If the supervisor is not available and you require treatment, have someone take you to the Operating Room, Sixth Floor South.
3. Report all unsafe conditions to your supervisor immediately. This includes broken furniture, broken glass, defective electrical equipment, appliances, etc.

4. Walk - do not run - in halls, rooms, or on stairs. Always keep to the right and approach corridor intersections carefully. Open swinging doors slowly. Remember that patients are very often unsteady on their feet and so we need to look out for them.

5. Be sure that you understand the way to perform any task given you. If in any doubt, ask your supervisor.

6. If you have to climb, use a ladder. Be sure it is in good condition and anchored at a right angle. Do not climb on chairs or tables.

7. When instructions have been issued for care and exposure to contagious and infectious diseases, such instructions must be followed rigidly, especially if you have contact with patients and visitors.

8. If you are unable to report for work because of sickness or for any other reason, call your supervisor. The telephone number is 2700.



Tuesday,
November 7
Election Day
Do your civic Duty!

VITAL STATISTICS



"The 47% increase in the Minnesota Birth rate during the past 10 years has been accompanied by a 55% increase in the number of babies born in hospitals. In 1949, almost 98% of all live births occurred in hospitals. In fact, more than three times as many babies are born in Minnesota hospitals today as were in 1933. With a markedly increased birth rate and hospitalization, there has been a 74% decrease in the maternal death rate during the past decade, reaching an all-time low of six deaths per 10,000 live births in 1946. But, as low as this rate is, many of these deaths are preventable. Studies currently being conducted by the Minnesota State Medical Association and the Minnesota Department of Health have shown that more prenatal supervision, better nutrition, and adequate obstetrical and hospital care, can do much to further reduce the risk to life and loss of health.

These factors, among others, have also been responsible for a 27% decrease in infant mortality (death of babies under one year of age) during this 10-year period. In 1949, the infant mortality rate in Minnesota was 26 per 1,000 live births, a figure considerably lower than the national average. . .

The enviable reduction in maternal and infant mortality has been made possible because the citizens of Minnesota have recognized the need of good professional care, have been willing to supply modern hospital plants, and have utilized all available facilities. . .

The significance of these accomplishments can be stated quite simply. If the 1949 Minnesota rates had prevailed throughout the United States, the lives of approximately 111 mothers and 18,500 infants would have been saved. As a result of the reduction in maternal and infant mortality during the past decade, 117 Minnesota mothers and 713 Minnesota infants are alive today who would have died had 1939 mortality rates prevailed in 1939. More intensive efforts must be carried out to further reduce preventable disability and death."

MATERNAL, INFANT & CHILDHOOD MORTALITY Minnesota Department of Health



BABIES BORN

IN OUR HOSPITAL

1934	347
1939	619
1944	1209
1949	2143

St. Gerard Majella, Patron and
Protector of Mothers,

PRAY FOR US.

HINTS FOR VISITORS

We do Christ's work when we visit the sick. He said, "I was sick and you visited Me," and so, when we visit the sick we are really doing something for Christ. How would Christ have us visit Him? Would He expect extraordinary things of us? Very likely He would include the following ideas:

Don't stay too long..a patient tires quickly. Thirty minutes may be only a half hour to you..but half a year to one in pain.

Talk quietly, comfortably, about things of interest to your friend. Keep away from topics that can bring worry or distress.

Do not leave it to the patient to "entertain" you.. you're not the one who's sick. If your visit becomes awkward or strained.. don't stay.

Never sit on the bed.. the patient already has enough troubles.

If you do shake hands with the patient.. go easy. A mere handclasp will express your friendship.

Don't visit a sickroom if you have a cold..or if your condition can jeopardize the patient's health. If in doubt..Don't.

COURTESY

Say "Good morning" or "Good afternoon" with a smile, and mean it. Remember, it's often the little things that count the most.

The goodwill of our patients, our visitors, and the public depends to a great extent on your courtesy. By being helpful, pleasant, and thoughtful--in person and on the telephone--you can help us win and keep friends. And not only that. You yourself are being a better person by being kind, pleasant, and helpful. Mary in her Nazareth home surely was courteous. And were Mary here with us, she would be just that. And so let us try to be courteous to each and all.

It's only fair to respect the feelings of others. Gossiping in groups, loud talking or laughing, or congregating in the elevator lobbies may be disturbing.

Let's try to anticipate the needs of our patients, visitors and fellow workers.

A R E M I N D E R . . .

November is the month of the Poor Souls.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.

AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.